

SALUTING PFIZER AND ITS
EMPLOYEES

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute the charitable donations of Pfizer and its employees.

A corporate leader in southeastern Connecticut, Pfizer's world research and development headquarters is located in my congressional district in Groton, Connecticut. In the August 23 edition of the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*, Pfizer was recognized as the largest corporate charitable donor in the United States. The *Chronicle's* study, which encompassed 150 of the largest U.S. businesses outlined in *Fortune* magazine, examined the amount of cash and product donations during the past 3 fiscal years.

During this period, Pfizer and its employees donated more than \$1.7 billion, with pharmaceutical products composing nearly 95 percent of the total. In 2006, Pfizer donated nearly \$800 million to charities abroad, an increase of 92 percent from the previous year. These donations have greatly contributed to emergency and long-term health needs in developing nations.

Corporate citizenship and philanthropy have filled a significant role in assisting needy groups in our society. As a highly educated, compassionate group of people who are devoted to finding cures for disease and ailments, it is not surprising that Pfizer's employees are leading the way nationally in support of charitable causes.

As philanthropy becomes an increasingly integral component of business practices, we must recognize the importance of corporate charitable endeavors and the positive impacts on local, national, and international communities. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing Pfizer's charitable contributions that have supported health and social objectives domestically and abroad.

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SIR JOHN
COMPTON TO SOCIETY WILL BE
REMEMBERED LONG AFTER HIS
DEATH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce an article and an editorial written in the New York *CARIB News* on September 18, 2007 entitled, "A Legend is Gone" and "The Last of the Region's Charismatic Leaders," respectively.

These reports highlight the accomplishments of Sir John Compton, St. Lucia's Prime Minister who died on September 7th, 2007. As a man of greatness he will be missed but even more as a key Caribbean leader.

He started his career, as an independent leader, as Member for Social Affairs on the Executive Council, post he acquired after winning the 2nd election under Adult Suffrage in St. Lucia, in fact, until 1997, he carried the distinction of being the youngest member of

the country's parliament. He quickly advances in government and formed the National Labour Movement which eventually became the United Workers Party. Under the leadership of the party he was appointed Chief Minister and, when St. Lucia gains statehood in Britain, he became Premier. Almost a decade later, once independence from Britain is achieved, he was appointed Saint Lucia's first Prime Minister, where he continues to contribute to the formation of the country working actively in the government until he fell ill on April 2007.

He was a man of great conviction and aspirations; his dedication to politics is an example to all leaders. It is a shame he will not be here with us to continue to teach us but his legend will prevail for generations to come.

A LEGEND IS GONE

If St. Lucia's twin tower Pitons Mountains could visibly react, they would whisper tears of joy, echoing the speechless humming of the sulphur springs. Deploying time and eternity to celebrate both a son stolen by death, and a man honored in life, these majestic hills would display the sheer relentlessness and untiring work ethic that Sir John personified.

Placed on high alert, the earth endeared by the greenery carpeting the land, would not hesitate to volunteer the service of rainbow colored thunderclouds. Even these pregnant clouds would be expected to carry signs of groaning patriotism, lavaed by a drive in volcano of tribute. A tribute, no doubt that Soufriere's Botanical gardens would give Sir John in the form of scented salutes. Salutes equal to the appropriate sacrifices and unconventional risks he pursued, which were at home with the collective interests of his people.

Although I was born in Antigua and Barbuda, the passing of Sir John particularly touches me, and my sentiments stand revealed for what they are. Besides the fact that my parental lineage is St. Lucian, the many personal interactions I shared with him, and the intense professional relations we had, sponsored insights into the elephantine authenticity of the man.

Since closure brings disclosure, Sir John's death, has not found us feeling that he has died. Through the tranquil gaze of mourning, we see more clearly, how he spun webs of social values and private life into unforgettable last rites of unmatched public service. This man has left us a stubborn legacy that nurtures the courage to live.

SOCIAL VALUES

Loved by friends and embraced by opponents, Sir John knew the distinction between those with whom he had a very different vision of country, and those for whom he was called to serve. But in either case, he never compromised the exemplary leadership of caring for all equally. To Mr. Compton, freedom spelt justice for the poor without eliminating an equal place for the privileged; honor was meant to be faithful to one's values; service was defined by how much it lifted the most unfortunate to real life experiences of decency; and peace was only a positive good if every child were given the opportunity to go to school. Sir John rested calmly, when the wealth of the nation's resources, surrendered to every parent's desire to support their children's dreams.

PRIVATE LIFE

I do not want to evaporate his humanity. It was filled with the antagonisms of greatness and failures. Yet, Sir John will be remembered as a loving grandfather, a caring father, and a special son who made his parents proud. To Lady Jane, he will forever remain, the lover who rang the bell of roman-

tic love within the steeple of her soul. Those who knew him personally remarked that he had the gift of mixing private life with public service. Sir John turned random acts of unparalleled service into a national hero's legacy without straying from the range of the common touch. It could be said that he did meaningful and 'small things with great love' (Mother Teresa).

The Right Honorable Sir John George Melvin Compton was a statesman of an extraordinary texture; incubator of his people's hopes, light bearer of regional cooperation, a firebrand politician with integrity oozing forth from his breathing. He gave supremely of himself with abundance, to every village, town and corner of St. Lucia, and the Caribbean at large.

LAST RITES

Sir John could have stayed in retirement from active politics, but he chose to return as 'Papa' to help the hand that needed assistance. And what a dangerously powerful campaign he showcased—a public good that should be valued for what is really was—a leader's last rites of passage between the cradle and the coffin. Mr. Compton brought his party from the wilderness to the pride of his people's confidence. Some said that he should have known the limits of his health and age, but given his personality and character, there were no limits and certainly no human boundaries that would have kept Sir John away from the love of his life—serving his people selflessly.

STUBBORN LEGACY

The range and scope of his life should not be reduced to 'a do it alone phenomenon.' Sir John's team of leaders, led by Honorable Acting Prime Minister Stephenson King and Honorable Deputy Political Leader Lenard Spider Montoute is just as passionate about good governance as he was. Despite an uneven beginning, the team embodies his vision for the betterment of all St. Lucians in much the same way as Sir John did. The UWP government must competently demonstrate to the world, that Sir John shaped the party leaders, as the party leaders sharpened their deceased leader. It is this mutually intermingling of leadership intelligence that St. Lucians is heir to.

For many of us, Sir John's death will jolt us into deeper civic consciousness blazing in the glory of a wider communal responsibility. His words should continue to challenge us, as his deeds inspire us, not so much to itemize what he did do well or could have done better, but to follow the direction he pointed out, and the path he dared us to journey with him.

St. Lucia is better off for having granted Sir John the honor of several seasons of prosperous leadership, and the Caribbean region would have been worst off, without his strength of character and humble service. His trail of stunting accomplishments and gallant deeds is to be memorialized for countless generations to come. If Rosa Parks were to have been with us, and had the privilege of knowing Sir John, she might have said of him, 'there goes a man who lived his life as a model for others.'

COURAGE TO LIVE

Healing moments of sadness often leaves room for wisdom seen through the prism of serene acceptance. May Sir John's ancestral spirit haunt us until we measure up to the ideals he courageously wanted to attain in his lifetime. When we mirror Sir John in our daily lives, we automatically inherit the courage to live in the wisdom he practiced.

Sir John meant one thing to me, a symbol of unity communicating a sterling message: the affairs of a nation, a people and a region, must be given priority at all times, and in